

Captain James Matero  
The Cold Spring Volunteer Fire Company  
The North Highland Volunteer Fire Company  
The Putnam County 911 Emergency Dispatchers  
The Putnam County Intelligence Committee  
The Fairview Fire Department  
The Veterans Affairs Hudson Valley Health Care System

Mr. Speaker, it's an honor to acknowledge and appreciate those who give so much of themselves to keep us safe.

HONORING SOUTH ABINGTON  
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

**HON. TOM MARINO**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 17, 2012*

Mr. MARINO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor South Abington Elementary School, and a very special group of third grade students, recognizing their efforts to found and promote the Paws for Peace initiative.

Inspired by a children's book, Paws for Peace is an initiative started by six third-grade students from South Abington Elementary, with one goal: end the cruelty and suffering of animals in puppy mills. Many puppy mills engage in inhuman practices, including forcing dogs to live their entire lives in cages.

Paws for Peace encourages people to adopt animals from local shelters and pet rescues, rather than turning to puppy mills, using the slogan "Adopt, don't shop!" Through local and social media, members of Paws for Peace have been able to spread their message of animal welfare and humanity, creating a great impact throughout the 10th District.

With the assistance of Principal Robert D. Bugno, and teachers Judy Szymanski and Emily Saslo, third graders Olivia Arcuri, Paige Caskey, Ashley Hamilton, Christina Leo, Gianna Marturano, Mattie McGuinness, and Grace Phillips have truly made a difference in their community. They have demonstrated a heartfelt commitment to their cause, and I am proud to applaud their efforts here today.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor my constituents, and ask my colleagues to join me in praising their commitment to all walks of life in Pennsylvania's 10th Congressional District.

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN  
REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2012

SPEECH OF

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 16, 2012*

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to H.R. 4970 because it represents a missed opportunity to renew the Violence Against Women Act, VAWA. VAWA exists because women have a human right to live in dignity without fear of criminal activity being perpetrated against them, and local and national law enforcement agencies must have specific tools to protect that right.

The bill before this House will undermine the progress our nation has made toward pro-

tecting and supporting victims of sexual assault and domestic violence. It runs counter to the intent of VAWA by cutting vital existing protections for battered immigrant women, and excludes important protections for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Questioning, LGBTQ, victims, as well as Native American women. This bill fails to protect some of the most vulnerable victims and leaves them without access to essential services.

Three in five Native American women have experienced domestic violence in their lifetime. Up to 33 percent of the LGBTQ community are victims of domestic violence. These are not merely statistics; these are people we represent and they need our support.

I urge my colleagues to vote against this bill.

HONORING ROBIN GREGORIUS,  
ALABAMA SMALL BUSINESS  
PERSON OF THE YEAR

**HON. JO BONNER**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 17, 2012*

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Ms. Robin Gregorius, who was recently selected the 2012 Alabama Small Business Person of Year by the U.S. Small Business Administration.

Ms. Gregorius' personal story is a testament to her determination to realize her dream of establishing an assisted living center that addresses the needs of her patients for the comforts and of home rather than a care facility.

The daughter of immigrant parents from the former nation of Czechoslovakia, Ms. Gregorius grew up on a farm in Robertsedale in Baldwin County, Alabama.

Her career as a registered nurse took her across the country, both near and far, including the cities of New Orleans and Los Angeles. Yet, she returned to the Mobile area to put her knowledge to work for local patients who would benefit from her new approach to assisted living care.

In a recent interview with the Mobile Press-Register, Ms. Gregorius noted that over her career she had observed that her older patients longed for "homey" surroundings in their care facilities with home cooking—important touches that were often lacking in assisting living quarters. And equally important, the staff in many care facilities seldom offered the "family touch" that many older patients sought.

Ms. Gregorius knew there was a better way and she sought to implement a new approach of "assisted living with a heartbeat." While the journey to fulfilling her dream was a long one, involving two decades of saving money—often working double shifts to earn for a down payment—she eventually secured a \$1 million bank loan. The results have been rewarding.

Today, she owns and operates the Country Gables Assisted Living Home in Grand Bay where she and her staff of 14 care for patients in a novel way. As she put it, her care facility "is pretty much run like a big bed-and-breakfast hotel, except it's breakfast, lunch and dinner with a 24-hour continuum of care."

Ms. Gregorius is joined by her mother, Lahoma, and her sister, Ramona, in running their small assisted living facility like a large

family home. Their hard work has been rewarded with the satisfaction of their patients and the knowledge that County Gables is a special place.

Fittingly, in March, Robin Gregorius was named as Alabama's Small Business Person of the Year. On May 20, 2012, she will officially receive her award at a Small Business Administration conference honoring the nation's other Small Business awardees here in Washington, DC.

On behalf of the people of Alabama and my colleagues in the Alabama Delegation, I wish to extend personal congratulations to Ms. Gregorius and her family for not only receiving this wonderful honor, but also for their substantial contributions to the lives of many local seniors.

HONORING POLISH MUSEUM OF  
AMERICA

**HON. MIKE QUIGLEY**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 17, 2012*

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the more than 110,000 Polish-American constituents in the fifth Congressional district in Illinois, I proudly recognize the 75th anniversary of the Polish Museum of America.

Ever since the inaugural mayoral election where three Polish-American citizens cast their votes for our first mayor, the Polish community has been influencing the culture and direction of the city of Chicago.

The Polish Museum of America is one of the oldest ethnic museums in the United States. The museum was founded in 1935 as a way to promote Polish culture, literature, customs and history as well as attest to the Polish presence in North America.

The Polish Museum of America has one of the most extensive archives and libraries on Polish history in the world, including original prints of flyers, posters, books, and an amazing genealogical research section. The library and archives of the museum are truly invaluable resources for both the Polish and the non-Polish communities of Chicago.

The museum holds many important historical collections, two of which are a collection of personal belongings of Ignacy Jan Paderewski, the second prime minister of Poland, as well as the items from the 1939 World Fair Polish Pavilion. Along with these treasures of Polish history, the PMA frequently houses modern art and other temporary exhibits which represent the proud culture of the Polish people.

Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure and honor to congratulate the Polish Museum of America on 75 years of deepening all of our understanding and respect of the rich Polish history, traditions, and culture. I wish them even more success in the years to come.

RECOGNITION OF MS. LESLEY  
KILP HAENNY

**HON. JOHN LEWIS**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 17, 2012*

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ms. Lesley Kilp Haenny in